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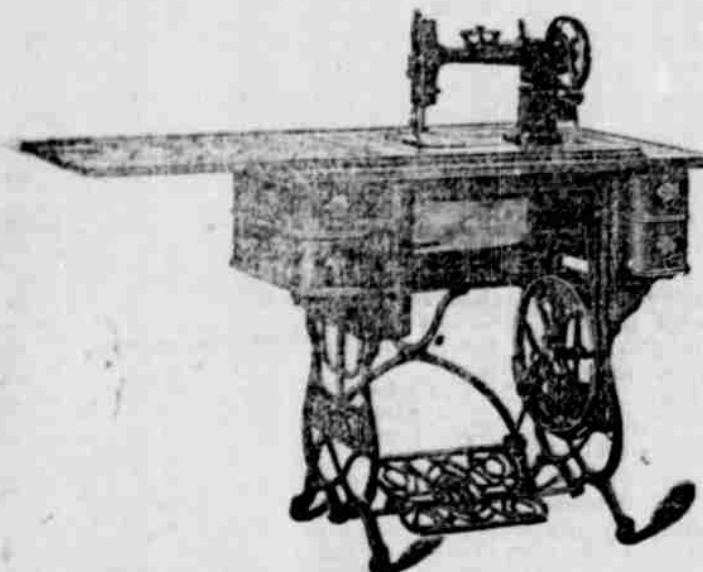
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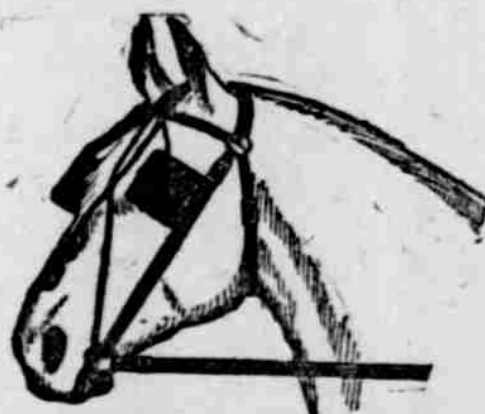
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HOTEL STREET.

REFORMERS IN CHINA

What the Bow Wong Wui is After.

WOULD RESTORE EMPEROR

Have no Sympathy With Boxers but Are With the Foreigners.

Few of our American readers realize the significance of the newspaper squibs floating about in a yagrant manner through the daily papers, anent the Chinese reform party. It is really a subject full of interest to the student of political economy, and to all who consider the importance of the immense growing trade relations with the Orient.

For the edification of those who do not know what the objects of this great reform are, it might be well to state that the principal one is the restoration of the young emperor to his throne and the permanent suppression of the wicked old Dowager Empress and her silly advisers. The lady in question is anything rather than a fool in ordinary affairs, and, if we may believe one-half the stories we hear of her general knowledge of men and politics, she must certainly be blessed with more than an ordinary brain. But she has certainly been surrounded by a Cabinet of low, stupid old evils who have advised her away from every chance she may have had, at the close of her late unpleasantness with Japan, to rehabilitate her tottering Empire.

This new party of reformers must not be confounded with the "Boxers," who are now terrorizing their countrymen in China. In fact, in one particular, the two parties are diametrically opposed to each other. One of the cardinal principles of the "Boxers" is anti-foreigner; the reformers, on the contrary, harbor no such feeling, and their party is made up of a new generation of bright young men, many of whom have been out in the world and learned much by contact with the foreigner. The "Boxers" are made up of the riffraff of the peasantry, together with a following of soldier deserters who know just enough of military lore to get themselves and their followers into trouble. The imperial government might have dispersed this raw mob long ago were it not for the fact that they believed these rioters were about to destroy all the foreigners in the Empire, thereby leaving matters as they stood a few centuries ago, before the blue-eyed man came to interfere with the long-established laws of exclusion.

There can be but one bond of sympathy between the "Boxers" and reformers, namely, the restoration of the young Emperor to the throne of China, which is his right by all the laws of civilization, and possibly before this paper goes to press the great Powers may have solved the puzzle for the Chinese. If this can be accomplished without robbing China of her birthright, well and good; but if the Powers ever attempt the old feudal system of first come first served, grab and hold on, they will find that they have captured a very expensive elephant indeed.

The most prominent man of the reform party is Kang Yu-wei—in fact, he is looked upon as the leader and chief, and his late work on the subject of China's future, which has been translated into English by the Shanghai Herald, has gained for him a respectful hearing from both Chinese and Europeans. Following is a criticism on the work by an American publisher.

"Kang Yu-wei's work is something like a cross between the Lamentations of Jeremiah and Plato's treatise on the republic. He is full of grief and theories. And yet his work does not lack eloquence or ability. 'Alas, oh heaven,' he exclaims, 'our four hundred million brothers, together comprise the largest empire in the entire world. How, then, are we so weak? Why is our empire becoming dismembered? Why are we slaves, of no more importance than sand?'"

Kang's answer to his own questions is that the troubles of China proceed from the selfish individualism of the people, each of whom looks out for himself and cares nothing for the country. He says the people of a Chinese village are full of interest in village affairs, but they are indifferent to the empire's welfare. "The fact is," he says, "we do not understand that the China we live in is our own great patrimony. All along we have wrongfully regarded the empire, with all its commerce and interests, as the private care of the rulers, and hence we have become slaves and coolies!"

"Empire is village writ large," is one of the epigrams found in Kang Yu-wei's treatise. "The people of China must be characterized by unity of mind and honesty of purpose if they would save their country. 'So the empire,' he says, 'must be built upon and cemented with the eternal principles of law and order.'"

Coming down to a more definite discussion of the condition of China, Kang says that never before during its whole four thousand years' history has China confronted a danger like this present one. He enumerates the cessions of territory to Russia, Japan, Germany, France and other countries and says that the empire is being sold to the foreigner. He shows the right to construct railroads, to establish banks and to work the mines; also that the imperial customs are in the hands of the British, while Russians, Germans and English control the army. He argues that the seizures of Chinese territory up to this time are only preliminary to taking the remainder. By a happy figure of speech he compares China at this moment to a fish which the fisherman has caught in his net and permits for a little while to swim around in the net in fancied security before it is drawn from the water.

The failure of the Chinese to keep up with the progress of the time is another cause of their downfall. "In clinging to the laws and customs of antiquity," says Kang, "are you conscious that you are allowing yourselves to be sold to an alien race?"

Coming to the discussion of remedies, it is noticeable that Kang, whose book of course, was issued before the present disturbances began, placed dependence largely on the five million Chinese who are resident in other countries—in fact, built his sole hope of the regeneration of the empire upon the love for their fatherland entertained by these exiles. "Lofly heaven," he says, "has perhaps sent forth these five million of my countrymen, with the special intention that they should be the force that should renovate China." His proposal was to organize all the Chinese out of China in fraternal political associations to raise a fund by their contributions and use it in educating his countrymen at home. It may be noted here that Kang actually made considerable progress in this work of political organization, and that a strong association was formed in San Francisco, besides similar associations elsewhere. Kang was very anxious that this work

should be organized abroad before China should drift so far into anarchy that her case would be hopeless. "If we miss the present," says Kang, solemnly, "and wait till Peking is in arms, and every province ablaze with revolution, then, though Confucius himself should appear, he would be powerless." The aspect of affairs today indicates that the favorable opportunity has passed by and every province of China is either ablaze with revolution or will be soon.

Kang Yu-wei is but one of the many prominent men who have given up positions at the Imperial court for the glory and salvation of their abused countrymen. These men are patriots who should have the respect and encouragement of every good American citizen. Some of them have gone so far as to donate a large share of their private fortunes to the cause of reform, but Kang Yu-wei not only gave his wealth, but his high position at the Imperial court as well. He is one of the few who had, and still has, the absolute confidence of the young Emperor, and His Majesty has virtually appointed him to act as his agent abroad. As a reward for his loyalty to his Imperial master, Kang Yu-wei has been granted the right to find an asylum in the friendly city of Singapore. But all this persecution has not dampened his patriotic spirit; in fact, it seems to have sharpened it; for although he is denied a residence in his own country, his iconoclastic pen is ever busy in the cause of his party.

The Emperor himself is a member of this organization, which is not a secret society, as many uninformed persons are inclined to believe; neither is it nihilistic in its nature. All these men ask for is the return of their young ruler to his hereditary throne and his restoration to personal liberty, for he is now little less than a political prisoner within his own palace walls. It is a miracle that Kwang Hsu has been allowed to remain so long on earth, for he is surrounded by a gang of political plotters who would not hesitate at murder did they not fear the vengeance of both natives and foreigners. But should he chance to be so unfortunate as to fall conveniently ill, the news-gatherers of the world would soon have an opportunity to chronicle the sudden death, after a short but painful sickness, of China's Emperor.

Since a few such men as Kang Yu-wei have left the Imperial palace and mingled with the world, the Chinese people have had an opportunity to learn something of their Emperor. These men all declare that Kwang Hsu is by far the most wise and intelligent ruler China has had for many centuries. All agree that he is a man of wonderful sagacity, and that he is imbued with an intense love for his people. His education has not been neglected, still he is ever anxious to learn and improve, and the last study he has taken up is English, in which he is making astonishingly rapid progress.

The Emperor is more than liberal in his views regarding foreigners. He is anxious to learn the reasons for detroning him. He is anxious that the open-door policy should be favored in the fullest and most liberal sense of the term, not only in empty form, but in fact. All these innovations are obnoxious to the old Conservative party of China, the party which is now in power, and is ruled by Li Hung Chang and the Dowager Empress. They are as determined to keep the Emperor from assuming the scepter as are the members of the Reform party that he shall do so. The battle is an unequal one on account of the old legal adage that possession constitutes nine tenths, but the Reformers are sure to win in the end.

The Emperor is anxious that all modern mechanical improvements be introduced into China, not after the old style of government concession, but in the form of franchise, open to all competitors regardless of race. Railroads, telegraphs and modern farming machinery are all needed to complete the great reform which the Emperor has himself suggested, and which has been painfully near his own undoing. But thanks to the educational effect of travel in foreign lands, there are now enough energetic young men in the Empire to force the sun-dried mummies of old Conservatives to the wall. And this will surely come to pass, even though the great Powers take a decisive hand in the settlement of the present crisis. The Powers may establish a protectorate, but even so, they can do no more than advise consummation of Kwang Hsu's ideas of reform.

AMERICA'S GIFT.

A Bronze Bust for the Shakespeare Memorial.

STRATFORD-ON-AVON, June 13.—In behalf of the family of the late William Page, Sir William Treloar this afternoon presented to the trustees of the Shakespeare Memorial the well-known bronze bust of Shakespeare executed by the former president of the National Academy of Design of New York. The governors of the Memorial gratefully acknowledged the gift. Mr. George Wynham, the Parliamentary Secretary of the British War Office, was a Shakespearean scholar, wrote regretting his absence and saying that every student of Shakespeare would be grateful to Mr. Page's family for this interesting addition to the many gifts England owes to the generous enthusiasm of the poet's admirers in America. Sir Henry Irving, also regretfully absent, wrote:

"Shakespeare is one of the great bonds of concord between the American people and our country, and when new tokens of their homage to him comes from the hands of a distinguished American artist, we share their pride and gratification."

Girls Form Protective Society.

NEW YORK, June 23.—Fifty summer girls at Plymouth, Mass., have started an organization which promises to spread to all the Atlantic coast resorts. It is aimed against the deceiver, man. Hereafter any handsome, plausible young fellow who passes at Plymouth or vicinity as unmarried and eligible must be able to prove he is all he pretends to be or find his past dragged into the present—wife, children and all, if he has them. Jeanette Corley is president, and the organization is made up of women between seventeen and thirty. The members, however, are mostly in their teens. Alice Pierce is vice-president, and the meetings are held whenever one of the members is receiving attentions from any young man and is nervous about his history, fearing he may be a matrimonial repeater. The society appoints a committee of investigation, and search is made on information furnished by the man himself. If his stories are untrue he gets a hint which results in sudden departure. Then his name goes on the black list.

To Drown Rather Than Work.

NEW YORK, June 23.—"I don't want to live if I've got to work. I'd rather drown myself than work all my life," said fourteen-year-old Morris Verstein of Philadelphia a few days ago. He carried out his threat next day by jumping off a wharf, and his body was found yesterday. A month ago the boy came home from school, and said he would not go to school any more; that it was too hard. Verstein then procured a position for Morris in an engraving establishment. The boy tried it a week, then gave up in disgust, and sought the river.

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STEARNS CHAINLESS (1900)	75

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Has that satisfactory feeling which invariably comes to a man after partaking heartily of an excellent dinner. It causes him to wonder what there is in the world to be miserable about.

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Is a rendezvous for well dressed men. Very Modish are the Suits and Furnishing Goods shown by us this season. Our windows tell about them. Have a look during your luncheon hour.

"It's a very good world to live in. To lend, or to spend, or to give in. But to beg, or to borrow, or to get a man's own. It is the very worst world that ever was known."

AND WORST OF ALL, the dear old world is busy trying to forget how to give a lot for a little. It's a fad of ours to be frank. And besides, if we advertised at all times to give you more than "your money's worth," it would be an insult to your intelligence. THIS IS WHAT WE DO.—We give you one hundred cents' worth of merchandise for one dollar—EVERY TIME. As some of your ends—they have. We are offering this week Crash Suits for Men—Coat, Vest and Pants—\$2.85 the Suit.

THE "KASH"

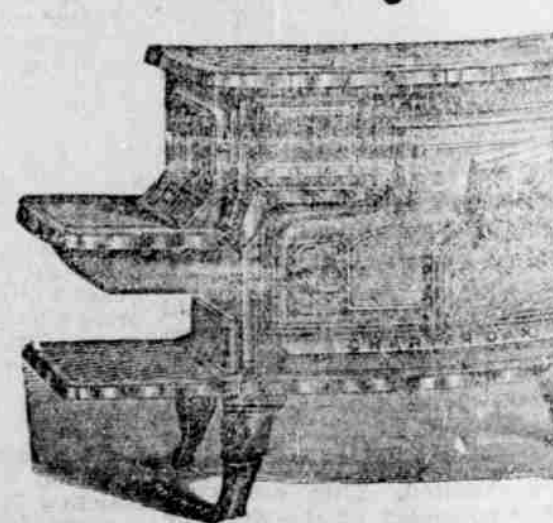
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